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Shaw or rain; brisk and high weather; winds and a cold wave.

A RADICAL PURSING.

Never in the history of the province of Quebec was corruption so barefaced as under the Mercier regime. Its every step was a job and every job a steal. Honore Mercier himself was at the very head and front of these steals, and the ministry with which he surrounded himself ably abetted and aided him. By an effrontery only equaled by his absorbing self conceit he pushed himself to the fore in the provincial parliament and assumed the leadership. With the delusive cry of reform and promises of subsidies galore, he succeeded in overthrowing the Joly government, and in the elections which followed was returned with a good working majority. At this time he was so financially crippled that he was unable to meet a note calling for but a small amount. Four years later his real property was assessed for more than \$35,000. Strange as it may seem, although his dishonesty was exposed time and again, the electors shut their eyes to the corruption of the government and rallied at his call. Emboldened by repeated successes, and assuming a piety he could not have felt, he dipped his hand still deeper and deeper into the public till, until patience ceased to be a virtue and the lieutenant governor was constrained to call a halt. The result of the examination which followed revealed so shocking a condition that the house was dissolved and an appeal taken to the electors. The result of that appeal has pronounced for purity and made the local house overwhelmingly conservative, although the province is liberal in national politics. The purging was no more radical than the case needed, indeed the return of Mr. Mercier by his constituency indicates that a little more purging will be necessary before purity will hold complete sway in Quebec.

SEAL FISHERY RIGHTS.

In the senate yesterday the submission of the seal arbitration treaty aroused much comment. The consensus of opinion, however, revealed a feeling of disappointment at the refusal of the British government to renew the modus vivendi in force last year, and a determination to support the administration in any manner it might deem necessary for the preservation of seal life, or which would uphold the dignity of the United States. Russia claimed in 1922, that the Behring Sea was a mare clausum, in so far as far bearing animal life was concerned. England took exception, so also did the United States, but at that time the question was not deemed of great enough importance to press to a conclusion, therefore the question is still an open one, and a proper subject for arbitration. The rights claimed by Russia we have since acquired, and it devolves upon us to defend them even to extremities.

England's attitude on this question becomes remarkable when viewed in the light of historical events and usage observed in England for the past 900 years. Under the forestry laws they created a proprietary right in wild animals, and until 1860 English courts held that deer strayed from their parks might be pursued and taken on adjoining grounds. In 1872 the duke of Athol's claim that a proprietary interest in deer did not cease when the animal strayed away was allowed. Zoologically they are both mammalian animals, and both worthy of protection. But the seal obtains his food in the ocean and is there for aquatic, and his case must come under fishing privileges. On this view we have the Halifax Fisheries commission which in 1877 awarded the Canadian government \$5,500,000 for conceding to Americans the right of taking codfish outside of the three mile limit. So whether viewed as an animal or a fish our right to protect them is in line with English precedent.

MR. TAGGART ON THE LAW.

The March number of the Michigan Law Journal contains a very thorough discussion of the validity, and on the other hand, the unconstitutionality of the Miner electoral law. Professor B. M. Thompson of the law school of the University upholds the principle of the law and answers General Cutcheon's argument which appeared in the February issue of the Law Journal. The Hon. Messrs. Taggart of this city replies to Professor Thompson and supports General Cutcheon's views. Mr. Taggart is especially well qualified to express an opinion upon this question, and he does so with convincing force. He handles the constitutional questions involved in the discussion with great ability, and demonstrates very clearly that in spite of the declarations to the contrary of those who are responsible for the passage of the Miner law, the argument of those who affirm that the method of choosing electors by congressional districts is in direct conflict with the constitution, has much in it that is unanswerable. Mr. Taggart maintains that "the state shall appoint, not any appoint these electors," and that "the word 'state' is not of doubtful meaning; either in common

usage or in the more or more times where used in other provisions of the constitution. It invariably and unquestionably as to used denoting the whole of the body corporate so termed."

The question of the constitutionality of the Miner law must necessarily be left to the courts as the final arbiter, but as to its equity there can be but one opinion. Both General Cutcheon and Mr. Taggart illustrate how inequitable the law may become in a state where the congressional districts have been "gerrymandered." Mr. Taggart says: "To concede, as does the learned professor, that gerrymandering cannot be defended is but to concede that this new method cannot be defended, although he reaches the opposite conclusion." If a state is so gerrymandered that the will of the majority is not expressed in the election of representatives, as was the case in Ohio, where in spite of a republican majority of twenty thousand, fifteen out of twenty-one congressmen elected were democrats, it cannot be claimed with any show of reason that presidential electors, chosen from these same districts, will represent the voice of the people of the state. Yet that is precisely what the supporters of the Miner electoral law do claim. Mr. Taggart's article in the Law Journal is very interesting and instructive upon this phase of the discussion.

The shooting of the officers who attempted the arrest of several notorious negroes in Memphis was avenged in a most ghastly manner the next morning. The three most desperate characters were taken from the jail and shot to death. It can be with no other than feelings of horror that the horrible deeds of murder are read through out the country. Christian men and women are devoting time and money, and grappling this race question with an earnest desire to reconcile the two races. That they have accomplished much it is their due to say, but that much more remains to be accomplished is evidenced with each new outbreak. And these outbreaks will continue until the better or more peaceable disposed citizens are educated out of the control of disreputable and villainous leaders.

The Chicago Tribune's investigation of the inter-state commerce law made in five states reveals the gross violations which are practiced by many leading roads. Favored shippers are rebated and given advantages over the less favored. This has often before been charged, but never before so clearly shown. Remedies are suggested, but it may be questioned if Lord Coke's terse comment on statutory law to the effect that, the statute had never been framed he could not drive through with a coach and four, would not apply especially to laws of this kind. Certainly railroad managers experience no difficulty in running whole trains right through, and over and all around this law.

Just how a congressional opinion on the constitutionality of the Miner law can correct its partisan purpose or render it less odious to the voters of this state is not explained by Judge Chipman, and though the combined opinion of the Fifty-second congress was concentrated and delivered with Websterian force, the simple facts still remains that it augments one man's vote and robs another, that the position of the state in the Union is negatived, and that the sovereign will of the majority is made subservient to the will of the minority.

It certainly could not have been for want of good American citizens that the Fourth warders placed in nomination for supervisor an alien. That in this case the nominee had announced his intention to do so and did take out his final papers yesterday, is no excuse, nor is it an excuse to plead the fitness and character of the nominee. Such cases are not without precedent, and on this ground may be excused, but the precedent is dangerous and should not be encouraged.

The Gatch license bill has passed the Iowa senate. This is a step in the direction of good government, though a pretty hard blow at the average Iowa drug store. Of course saloons properly branded as such will now open and dispense liquid damnation, but there will be a noticeable absence of hypocrisy and the thin excuse of sickness or makeable will not need to be resorted to.

Port Townsend, Washington, citizens have memorialized congress on the Behring sea dispute and pray that the contention may be ended by the United States abandoning its position. Washington climate has been so highly extolled that it will be with much surprise that people learn of their need for seal skins.

The three Canadian cruisers which are shortly to be put on the lakes, inspired the senate to pass a bill appropriating \$275,000 for the purpose of building two cruisers for the lakes. Five innocent cruisers, ram bow, armored and armed to protect a handful of lake fish. Dear me, how these poor fish must be bothered, poor things.

FRANCIS MICHAEL establishes his claims to immortality by having in his home besides his wife nine female angels and a Lucifer. If this is not enough to send him to hell, then the poor man will have to wander in space without where to set his foot.

The Farmers Review correspondent reports generally favorable on the Michigan winter wheat crop. Now if congress will only pass a favorable opinion on the Miner disfranchising law the average Michigan democrat ought to be happy.

Relief Corps Meeting.

Yesterday afternoon the Eastern Relief Corps of this city invited all sister

lodges to their meeting in Elks' hall. A large number were in attendance. Among those from out of town was the department president, Mrs. Sarah Brown of Illinois. Considerable business was transacted, and great enthusiasm prevailed.

AMUSEMENTS.

Powers—Sarah Bernhardt.

We all know of Bernhardt and her art, but what shall we say of Sardou and his drama, which is very French. French in the sense as it is understood to expose immorality. The intrigue of women and men, in a licentious direction, seems to be the motive of every French play. The esteemed dramatist, who is a master of construction, is not to blame if his followers in La Belle France applaud that which smirks of infidelity, that which laughs at and ridicules, and smacks as weakness the very endeavoring of life. Yet this Frenchman must be pardoned, because he is to the manner born. He is a Frenchman, and in "La Tosca" he reflects French life without the aid of Max O'Rell's glasses. He sees his subject about the place and location of this great drama—it is Frenchy. Strong and powerful dramatically, but infused with rapid pulses and the passionate urging of the land of grapes and champagne which looks askance at the fever of the blood when its moral temper is gungled. The story of "La Tosca" is well known and well told by this great French dramatist. It must be granted that the stage performance of it given by Sarah Bernhardt last night was superb. Through the earlier acts the fluctuating emotions of love, hate, pity, and despair are all depicted. The actress controls the audience with her personal magnetism. The perfection of her art. Every gesture and inflection of the heroine carries the play forward to the great climax, the murder of Scarpia. This scene cannot be described. It is dominated by intense animal passion and the struggle for the saving of virtue and self-interest from the control of thought and brain stands illumined. In almost an instant Mme. Bernhardt portrays the whole gamut of feeling. Fear, horror, womanly repugnance, diplomatic pleading and felicitous ferocity are seen at a glance. A picture of a soul that almost offered itself to impulsion. Many women have been tried, but the picture is not overdrawn. Who could not understand Bernhardt in this scene? She seemed moved entirely by the animal impulse, away by passion and at the supreme moment by direction of the dramatist resents it all. This is sometimes human. It is possibly natural. Who so hard that could not be touched by the sorrow, the pathos expressed in her voice and so consistently depicted in her action in the two last acts of this play. There is much that is gloomy in this play. Its ending love is unhappiness and despair and a wreck. That this great and incomparable Frenchwoman comprehends and feels every interest in every phase of humanity, of the character which Sardou wrote for her, there can be no dispute. The world would have doled its hat to Bernhardt; critics, cynics, cranks and all who can look upon the stage intelligently or with a pretense of intelligence. Her company all spoke French—if need be a translation may be coming in the future. For the present this is all. Adieu, Bernhardt!

General Mention.

The great theatrical plunger, Henry E. Abbey, was about the lobby of Powers' last night. In the meantime Mrs. Henry E. Abbey saw "His Nibs, the Baron," at Redmond's, while her husband received his checkbook and the receipts of Bernhardt. Neither of them saw Manager Burroughs after the theaters were closed.

The music lovers in Grand Rapids, who number among the thousands, need not be told but once about the appearance of the celebrated concertist Liberati and his concert company at Powers' next Sunday evening. Some prominent local musicians, vocal and instrumental will have a place on the program.

The next attraction at Redmond's will be that of Annie Ward Tiffany, who is unequalled in the delineation of legitimate female Irish character parts. Miss Tiffany has a new play, "The Shepherdess."

Do not forget that the continuous show of George's are permanent. He has the greatest show of his career here this week.

Suffocated by Steam.

New York, March 9.—Richard McKnight, a steamer passenger on the Anchor line steamer Circassia, died on the voyage and was buried at sea. The circumstances of his death came to light today. McKnight was placed in the ship's hospital soon after the ship sailed, as he was on the verge of delirium tremens. About noon on March 4, one of the steward's men saw steam escaping from under the door of the hospital. He opened for door and found the room full of dense steam. Leaving the door open he groped his way to the ports and opened them. Then he carried out the sick man, who was in a state of collapse. McKnight died soon after. It was found that the cock of a small radiator had been turned on full head. As McKnight was alone in the hospital, and locked in, he must have turned on the steam himself.

Mission Church Destroyed.

Boston, March 9.—The Mission church in Tremont street, just beyond the Roxbury crossing, was totally destroyed by fire at 4:30 this morning. Loss, \$60,000. The church was occupied by the redemptionist fathers. The main building was erected thirty-five years ago. The fire destroyed the three vestries in the rear of the pulpit and with them all the valuable gold and silver plate. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained.

Could Not Compromise.

Decatur, Ill., March 9.—The miners of Decatur and vicinity held a mass meeting today to consider propositions made by the mine operators to enter into a yearly contract at thirty-five cents per ton and ten hours to constitute a day's labor for drivers and shift hands. The proposition was rejected by an almost unanimous vote. The operators and committeemen held another conference this afternoon, but failed to effect a compromise.

Oldest Bible in America.

Augusta, Ill., March 9.—Doubtless the oldest Bible in America is owned by H. W. Young of this place. The address, with "Preface to the Christian reader touching the two alphabets ensuing," with instructions how to study the gospel, was written and signed by Robert L. Henry of London, England, in 1517. The Bible was printed in 1514. Records kept in this Bible show that it was owned by John Granby in 1600, and afterwards by Margaret S. Wain,

grandmother of the late Dr. H. A. Young of Augusta. The instructions, apocrypha and Bible are printed in three different kinds of type. It is probable that this Bible was brought over in the Mayflower by some of Dr. Young's ancestors. Probably this is one of the very first Bibles printed after the King James edition was authorized. The book will be on exhibition at the World's Fair.

IN HONOR OF TOM REED.

Admirers in Washington Tender the Ex-Speaker a Reception.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Ex-Speaker Reed had a rousing reception at the National Rifle armory tonight. The reception was given by the National Republican Auxiliary association, of which D. A. Ray of Illinois is president. It was social in character. The speeches were eloquent tributes to Mr. Reed. Senator Perkins of Kansas presided. Congressman Burrows of Michigan made an eloquent address, complimentary to the great abilities and public service of Mr. Reed. Congressman Deliver of Iowa sketched Mr. Reed as the greatest speaker in American history. Mr. Reed accepted the congratulations in a brief speech, full of fire and enthusiasm, which was continually interrupted by applause. The decision of the United States supreme court sustaining Speaker Reed's quorum rulings was the occasion of this congratulatory reception. There are some who would be glad to give a deeper meaning to the reception. Mr. Reed has many strong friends who would be glad to see him nominated at Minneapolis.

Detective Mooney Dead.

CHICAGO, March 9.—James Mooney, the senior partner of the private detective firm of Mooney & Boland, died at his home at No. 5428 Grand boulevard, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Since the beginning of December last Mr. Mooney had been confined to his bed, although he had been a sufferer from paralysis for a long time prior to that, and during the last ten days he was most of the time unconscious. Last night at 11:30 a second stroke of paralysis occurred which affected his whole system, and he never rallied.

Streator Epworth League.

CHENOA, Ill., March 9.—The officers of the Streator district Epworth League met at the M. E. church in this city today. The Rev. O. T. Drinell of Washington is president. Mrs. Alma Ayres of Gridley secretary, and the Rev. T. Dooney presiding elder. The forenoon was taken up with reports, and the afternoon considering the needs of the district and making arrangements for sub-district conventions. This evening the Rev. O. T. Drinell delivered an address on "That Sister of His."

Rochester Goes Republican.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 9.—The republicans made a sweeping victory in the local elections here yesterday. Assemblyman Richard Curran defeats William Carroll for re-election by 3009 plurality. George W. Aldrich, republican, is re-elected member of the executive board by nearly 6000. And in spite of the gerrymandering of the city into twenty new wards, the republicans elected fifteen of the twenty aldermen.

Stevenson Home Again.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., March 9.—The Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson arrived at his home in this city tonight from the City of Mexico. He has been absent for weeks in the interests of the World's Columbian Exposition.

WELL THROWN.

How a Boy and a Snowball Stopped a Fire.

On a day in January, thirty-two years ago, the people of Madison Village, Me., were fighting fire. The west wind blew a hurricane; the tavern and an adjoining dwelling-house had already burned to the ground, and the entire village was threatened. The congregational church stood in direct line with the fire, but the wide village green might save it, says the Youth's Companion.

Hundreds of anxious eyes were on the watch lest some spark or live cinder should fall upon its exposed roof and walls, which were kept drenched with water. A blazing splinter whirled high across the green, and a strong, sucking current of air carried it and held it against a clapboard of the tall steeple; held it until the dry, pitch-filled strip of wood ignited, and a brisk smoke was rising on the steeple's south face.

A groan burst from the watching crowd. No ladder could reach the spot, and the loved church must burn.

A red tongue of flame shot out from the blackened hole that the live cinder had charred, then—this went a flying snowball up from the crowd, a single, big, moist snowball, that smacked out that blaze as one smuffs out a candle.

Warren Bacon with his good right left hand had quickly shaped and thrown the snowball, and the church was saved.

The building still stands, and the pious clergymen on the north side of the steeple still show where the blazing cinder and then the flying snowball struck.

PURCHASED GREATNESS.

There is a Marketable Commodity in Europe.

The remarriage of the duchess of Camille Seice, who is indebted for her vast wealth to the fact that she was one of the widows of Mr. Singer of sewing machine fame, will serve to draw attention to the facility with which titles are obtained in Italy, says the New York Recorder.

The duchess bought the title of duke for her second husband from the Italian government for \$10,000, while due amounting to close upon \$20,000 have just been paid into the treasury of the Italian government for the acquisition of the titles of duke, prince, marquis and count by young Eschschol, who led to the altar the other day the heiress and sole surviving representative of the grand old patrician house of the Eschschols.

It appears that the purchase of these titles is effected by means of the payment either to the nation or to the Italian government of fees of registration. These amounts in the case of the title of prince to \$15,000, in that of duke to \$10,000; marquis, \$5,000; count, \$3,000; viscount or baron, \$1,000.

Anybody who has not a record that is downright criminal can secure the title which he desires on payment of the dues just mentioned.

SOILING PEOPLE ALIVE.

Some of Europe Connected with the Old-Time Method of Punishment.

A deal of talk is being made about a certain governor of a Persian province who is said to have been killed alive by

order of the shah. It is not so very long since all the nations of Europe practiced boiling alive—commonly in oil, which was thought to impart a finer brown to the person so unhappily so to be in the caldron.

In England boiling was the legal punishment for prisoners for a long time, beginning in 1681, in the reign of Henry VII. Among those who suffered this discomfort was a man mentioned in the chronicle of the Gray Friars, who was let down into the kettle by a chain until he was done. He, however, was not boiled in oil—only plain. Some of the items of the expense account relating to the execution of Friar Stone at Canterbury are interesting in their homely phraseology: Paid two men that sat by the kettle and boiled him; To three men that carried his quarters to the gate and set them up; To a woman that scoured the kettle.

AFTER A BARGAIN.

The Sold One Cape, Bought Another and Had Ten Dollars Left.

The following incident, related by the Minneapolis Times, would tend to show the susceptibility of the feminine mind in catching on to the "genuine bargains" of special sale days.

The other day a pretty, well-dressed little woman, wearing a soft brown marten cape, rushed into one of the leading fur stores on Nicollet avenue and hurriedly inquired for the proprietor. Having found him, she gracefully removed the cape from her shoulders and blandly asked him what he would give for it.

"Why," said the old gentleman, somewhat taken aback by this unusual onslaught, "such dealings as this are not quite in line with our way of doing business."

"I paid sixty-five dollars for it only last month," she continued in a flutter. "Will you give me thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents for it?" in a way that left the old gentleman rather ill at ease. With best grace possible, as he saw there was no other way out of it, he called his cashier and instructed him to pay the money and offered to send for the garment.

"No," she said, her eyes brightening as she received the thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents. "I want you to bring me in a hurry that brown marten cape in your window marked down to twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents. I have passed and repassed that window, and the fact of so wonderful a bargain has haunted me until I felt that I must have it at any cost. This leaves me ten dollars, which I intend to spend at the special sale of trimmed hats this afternoon."

This remarkable specimen of womanly frankness left the store in ecstacy, also leaving the hearts of the clerks in a flutter.

MODERN WHALING.

Improved Implements Used in That Pursuit.

The shoulder gun which fires a bomb from a blunderbuss of large bore has been almost entirely superseded by the Pierce darting bomb lance, invented by Capt. Eben Pierce, of New Bedford, who has made many voyages in command of a whaler. This darting gun, says the Providence Journal, which is used almost exclusively by the Arctic fleet, is a device used close by the side of the whale, which can be luried successfully for only nine or ten feet. It carries a lance harpoon having a double toggle, which spreads at right angles with the shaft a distance of six inches, and which once firmly embedded through the blubber cannot be pulled out. A bomb lance is also set in a brass barrel attached to the same shaft as the harpoon. The iron strikes first, and after penetrating a distance of about seventeen inches, or through the blubber, a projecting wire out to the proper length explodes a Winchester cartridge, which shoots a bomb loaded with tonite into the vitals of the whale. With the bomb is a fuse out to burn five or six seconds. The tonite is a form of dynamite which can safely be burned in the palm of the hand, but when confined has an explosive force ten times as great as that of ordinary gunpowder. The bombs are very deadly, sometimes killing a whale outright. Fragments of the shells have been taken from all parts of the whale, from the point just behind the head, where it is usually fired, to the tail.

LOST AT A PROFIT.

A Wily Sea Captain Makes a Losing Bet That Brought a Big Profit.

The captain of one rather old and slow steamer, finding that he would have to be a long time in China, before he received a full cargo of tea, and would have probably to return in ballast, began, to every one's astonishment, to say that, owing to the repairs that had been done to his engine, he hoped to make a racing passage.

Then, still more to the astonishment of the captains of the fast steamers and the world at large, he commenced to back himself to make the fastest passage home.

In such very considerable sums of money did he wager that people began to think there was something in it, and the merchants sent their tea almost entirely by his ship, arguing that the captain stood to lose five hundred pounds sterling the repairs to his steamer's engine had probably put him in a position to bet almost on a certainty.

Of course the steamer, whose greatest speed was eight knots an hour, arrived in England weeks after the others, and the captain lost his five hundred pounds sterling; but instead of having to lie in China waiting his chance of cargo coming in from the interior—a probable delay of weeks—he had cleared in a few days, after his bet had become known to the public, with a full ship, thus recouping to his owners, who of course paid his betting losses, a considerable number of thousands of pounds profit.

Cheer on Family Rejoice.

In the chosen regions of Switzer-land a custom prevails for the friends of a bride and bridegroom to join in the presentation to them on their wedding day of an elaborate cheese. The cheese is used as a family register and heirloom, on which the births, deaths and marriages of its various members are recorded. Some of these old cheeses date back to 1660. At a recent agricultural show, held at Gossau, one of these cheeses, from one hundred and seventy to one hundred and eighty years old, was exhibited by a country squire.

An Interesting Specimen.

There is a province in Russia where more than four thousand men habitually stalk about wearing blue spectacles. This manner was originated by

the minister of agriculture for the purpose of guarding the animals from the intense ophthalmia that attacks them, from the effect of the harsh rays reflected from the snow. In this respect the custom is further advanced in civilization than the Englishman, who might suffer less from snow eyes during the sunny season by using the same protection.

Personal Liberty in Death.

In Berlin there is no personal liberty. The police methods greatly aid in the preparation of an accurate census. No room can be rented at a hotel or boarding-house, and no apartment or house can be legally leased until the landlord has sent to the police the name and purpose of the newcomer and the length of time for which he will probably occupy the city his home.

DON'T LIKE IT.

So Thought the Line Should Be Drawn Somewhere.

The prosperous looking business man was plainly angry when he walked into the office and asked: "Is there a man named Singlewood here?"

"The pale, solemn looking young man sitting at a desk in one corner of the room looked up and replied: "My name is Singlewood."

"A. J. Singlewood?" asked the business man, striding over toward him. "Alfred J. Singlewood," returned the young man.

"Your wife has a baby?" exclaimed the business man.

"Why, yes, thank you—a boy." The young man fairly beamed as he started to get up from his chair.

"Never mind the sex," returned the business man sharply. "Your wife has a baby, and you have a lot of blamed fool friends."

"Well, frankly," said the young man, "the boys have rather overdone the thing in an endeavor to be funny. They've sent me rattles and bottles and all that sort of thing."

"And they've sent you dispatches, 'collec'?"

"Two or three," replied the young man pleasantly, "but after opening the first one I didn't accept any others. I couldn't afford to, you know. I told the telegraph boys they must be for some other A. J. Singlewood."

"Of course, of course," exclaimed the business man excitedly. "And there's only one other A. J. Singlewood in the directory."

"I know it," returned the young man. "He's a contractor over in the skyscraper building. That's what I told the telegraph and messenger boys."

"You told 'em! That's what you!"—The business man almost burst a blood vessel, but finally calmed himself by a great effort, and went on: "Young man, that contractor does a large amount of business by telegraph, and he can't afford to refuse any dispatches. The ones that were not referred to him by you, young man, were delivered to him in the first place, and he has paid out \$4.35 for each lot so far."

"He displayed a dispatch which read, 'Trust the father is doing well.' Then warning up to his subject again he said:

"That contractor, young man, is a respectable bachelor, and it hurts him to be asked by wire if it's a boy or a girl. And it rolls him to pay half a dollar for some blamed fool advice on how to bring up a child. Suggestions that he call him Josephus tend to ruin his standing in the community, and the hope expressed by telegraph that he may have many happy returns of the day makes the men in the office snicker and lessens his dignity. Young man, you'll pay me, A. J. Singlewood, contractor, \$4.35 for those dispatches, take back the rubber dolls that I have received and admit in writing that the baby is yours or I'll go to law about it. Understand? I'll sue you for the \$4.35."

"Well, I'll tell you," said the young man apologetically, "I want to do what's right, but my salary isn't very large and I can't afford to pay for the dispatches and also the expense of the baby. Now, if you—"

But the contractor had gone.—Chicago Tribune.

An Antisocial Arrangement.

"How is it, Uncle Rastus," said a gentleman to a dandy, "that you never married? Aren't you an admirer of the softer sex?"

"I got a dual wrong 'bout a gal, sah," replied Uncle Rastus.

"A dual?"

"Yes, sah; yessah, and yessah ago. Sam Jackson an' myself, we got lubbed de same gal; we were both bound to git dah, and de business climaxed in a dual. We bot wah a trifle mahoon, sah, an' we bot wah a little Sam or Sam little me, we brought down a vallyble male dat wah standin' neah de fence."

"And did you fire again?" asked the gentleman, very much interested.

"No, sah, dat was a very vallyble male, but, an' we bot kinder shurtliffe. So we entered into an amicable severance."

"How did you settle it?"

"Sam tek the gal an' gwed to pay for de male, as I hain't lubbed once!"—Tenn. Siftings.

Learning Appreciated.

Calibrated Stranger—You advertise for a man who can speak twenty-six languages.

Mr. Graham—Yes, sir. The position is still open.

"May I ask concerning the matter of his duties?"

"Certainly. I own considerable property in New York, and I want a man to collect the rent."—New York Weekly.

So Shady, It Seemed.

Dumley—I've been to the Miss Vero at least two dozen times within the last six weeks and have never succeeded in finding her.

Sharpshooter—Well, I should think by this time you would have succeeded in finding her out.—Detroit Free Press.

Louis Miller, a Workman on the Michigan Central, was seriously injured Tuesday night by coming in contact with a bridge. He lives at Dearborn.

S. B. Durley, mate of steamer Arizona, has his feet badly lacerated. Thomas Betts on Oil Creek, is nothing equal to it for a quick pain reliever.

The Rev. Wm. Stuart, Winston, Ont., states: After being

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After being